



## VOLUNTEERISM

**USA Freedom Corps: Strengthening Service to Meet Community Needs** *The White House*, 8 October.

President Bush hosted a White House event highlighting the accomplishments of *USA Freedom Corps*, the volunteer initiative launched as part of a national Call to Service after the attacks of 9/11 to help more Americans connect with opportunities to serve their neighbors in need. The President honored the work of America's armies of compassion and repeated his call for Americans to devote 4,000 hours – or two years, in service to our country over their lifetimes. The goal of the USA Freedom Corps was to give Americans with opportunities to serve their country, to foster a culture of citizenship, responsibility and service. Over the last six years, *USA Freedom Corps* has met these goals.

[Call to Service – President Bush \(Windows Media\)](#)

[ARTICLE 624](#)

**Answering the Call to Service** *USA Freedom Corps*, 8 August.

An initiative to improve communities and change lives over nearly seven years under the President's leadership, the goal of the USA Freedom Corps was to connect Americans with opportunities to serve America, to foster a culture of citizenship, responsibility and service. The report details the response from the millions of individuals who have answered the President's Call to Service and used their power and energy to affect American communities.

[ARTICLE 625](#)

**Capitalizing on Volunteers' Skills: Volunteering By Occupation in America.** *Corporation for National and Community Service*, 9 September. 16p.

This study places strong emphasis on pro bono volunteering as a strategic and cost-effective way to tap into the skills of volunteers and reinvent the way they serve with nonprofits. It looks at the prevalence of volunteering among people in various occupations and shows how often they use their occupational skills when they volunteer. The study is designed to help broaden and deepen public and private sector partnerships, and allow nonprofits to take full advantage of the skills their volunteers have to offer.

[ARTICLE 626](#)

**See also: "Answering the Call to Service" - [Read Report](#) (47p.)**

**[USA Freedom Corps – Make a Difference – Volunteer](#)**

**[Webliography – Volunteerism](#)**

**[Corporate Pro-Bono Volunteering Campaign Tops \\$400 Million](#)**

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## THE PACIFIC

**Asia Pacific Security Survey 2008 Report** by Richard Baker & Galen Fox. *East-West Center*, 2008. 39p.

This report provides an accurate representation of the state of security in the region among security specialists. It presents the results of an online survey by 128 security analysts from 16 countries across the region and is the third annual survey conducted by the East-West Center. The 2008 report reflects an expansion in the number of participants from the previous year as well as changes in the survey's content. [\*\*ARTICLE 627\*\*](#)

**Asia Pacific Economic Outlook** *Deloitte*. September 2008. 8p.

The report covers the near-term outlook for Australia, India, Indonesia, and Japan. In Australia, the economy has become a bit soft after 16 straight years of expansion. The economy of India has been having an inflation epidemic and GDP growth rates have fallen from record highs. The country of Indonesia is facing record consumer and wholesale price inflation numbers. Japan also faces record inflation rates as well as an economic slowdown.

[\*\*ARTICLE 628\*\*](#)

**U.S.-Japan Strategic Dialogue: Next Generation Views of the U.S.-Japan Alliance** *Pacific Forum, Center for Strategic and International Studies*, 5 August. 49p.

Despite a historic strengthening of the U.S.-Japan security alliance throughout the last decade, new strains are emerging in the relationship. The U.S. readiness to move forward with relations with North Korea has stirred fears of abandonment. For U.S. strategists the U.S. commitment to Japan remains firmly rooted in common values, interests, and a long and enduring history.

[\*\*ARTICLE 629\*\*](#)

**A Forward-Looking Partner in a Changing East Asia** by Wu Xinbo in *The Washington Quarterly*, Autumn.

East Asia as a whole has come a long way since World War II when the United States established a hub-and-spoke structure in the Asia-Pacific region through a series of bilateral alliances with Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand. Wu says that Washington has gained tremendous influence in regional affairs by providing political, economic, and military support to a host of countries in the area. Yet, recent developments in East Asia have made the region much less dependent on the United States for security protection, economic prosperity, and political initiatives. Under these new circumstances, the likelihood of the United States maintaining its hub-and-spoke structure is declining, as is the region's dependence on U.S. leadership in regional affairs. The turning point has come for the United States to be a partner rather than a patron. [\*\*ARTICLE 630\*\*](#)

**Victory at Sea** by Christopher Pala in *Smithsonian*, September.

The tiny Pacific island nation of Kiribati created a marine reserve the size of California, and Pala writes that this action may point the way toward restoring marine ecosystems.

[\*\*ARTICLE 631\*\*](#)

**Drug Control: Cooperation With Many Major Drug Transit Countries Has Improved, But Better Performance Reporting and Stability Plans are Needed** *GAO*, 14 August. 65p.

Each year, criminal organizations transport hundreds of tons of illegal drugs from South America to the U.S. through a 6 million square mile "transit zone" including Central America, the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the eastern Pacific Ocean. Since FY'03, the U.S. has provided over \$950 million to support counter narcotics efforts in transit zone countries, which historically lacked the capacity to interdict drugs.

[\*\*ARTICLE 632\*\*](#)

**Looking Forward in Mindanao** by Carl Baker. *CSIS*, 4 September.

Recent developments in the Mindanao peace process serve as a reminder that the region remains volatile and fraught with unanticipated pitfalls.

[\*\*ARTICLE 633\*\*](#)

**Comparative Connections** - A quarterly journal featuring analyses on political and economic developments in 12 key bilateral relationships in East Asia. [\*\*Most Recent ed.\*\*](#)

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**The September 12 Paradigm: America, the World, and George W. Bush** by Robert Kagan in *Foreign Policy*, September/October.

The next administration must learn from the mistakes of the Bush era, but should not shy away from using U.S. power to promote American values. [ARTICLE 634](#)

**The Next President** by Richard Holbrooke in *Foreign Policy*, September/October.

The current Chair of the Asia Society believes that the next U.S. president will inherit a more difficult set of international challenges than any predecessor since World War II. [ARTICLE 635](#)

**Managing Foreign Policy and the National Security Challenges in Presidential Transitions** by Kurt M. Campbell and James B. Steinberg in *Washington Quarterly*, Autumn.

The process of transferring power from a sitting U.S. president to a president-elect is one of the most distinctive and perilous features of the American constitutional system—a time of great hope and optimism, but also one of great risk. From the earliest days of the Cold War how the old and new leaders have navigated this strait has been a matter of survival for the United States and for the stability and prosperity of the entire world. [ARTICLE 636](#)

**The Wars of John McCain** by Jeffrey Goldberg in *The Atlantic*, October.

John McCain believes the Vietnam War was winnable. Now he argues that an Obama administration would accept defeat in Iraq, with grave costs to American honor and national security. Is McCain's quest for victory a reflection of an antiquated pre-Vietnam mind-set? Or of a commitment to principles we abandon at our peril? Is there any war McCain thinks can't be won? [ARTICLE 637](#)

**"To Protect and Defend": Challenges to Public Safety and Homeland Security Facing the Next President** *National Association of Chiefs of Police*, 28 August. 13p.

Because every 22.2 seconds, an American is a victim of a violent crime, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) is calling on the next president of the United States to establish a National Commission on criminal justice and homeland security. The Commission would be charged with conducting a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system, and would be required to provide the nation with a strategic plan to guide public safety and homeland security efforts in the years ahead. [ARTICLE 638](#)

**Bush Owes His Successor a Tough Finish on Foreign Policy** by John Bolton. *AEI*, 8 September.

As the Bush administration enters its last months, its pursuit of a "legacy," especially in foreign policy, becomes ever more frenetic. Bolton says "pushing back North Korea, standing up to Russia, and supporting Israel against Iran: now there's a real Bush administration legacy." [ARTICLE 639](#)

**Securing the Future: A Primer on Security Sector Reform in Conflict Countries** by Sean McFate. *USIP*, September. 20p.

The report serves as a primer toward understanding security sector reform (SSR) in societies emerging from conflict, a rapidly expanding field of importance. The report provides background on SSR today. It is based on statements by panelists at a public forum held at the United States Institute of Peace and on interviews conducted by the author with government agencies, commercial contract firms, international organizations, and host governments that participate in the SSR programs. [ARTICLE 640](#)

**North Korea to Restart Nuclear Plant** – *Scientific American*, *Science News*, 19 September.

A North Korean official has confirmed that work has begun to reassemble the country's main nuclear plant after an international aid-for-disarmament deal stalled. [Watch Video](#)

**Conservative Internationalism** by Henry Nau in *Policy Review*, August/September.

Since World War II international relations specialists have debated two main traditions or schools of American foreign policy realism and liberal internationalism. Realism identifies with Richard Nixon and looks to the balance of power to defend stability among ideologically diverse nations. Liberal internationalism identifies with Franklin Roosevelt and looks to international institutions to reduce the role of the balance of power and gradually spread democracy by talk and tolerance. Nau argues that Ronald Reagan tapped into a new and different American foreign policy tradition that has been overlooked by scholars and pundits.

[ARTICLE 641](#)

**A Forward-Looking Partner in East Asia** by Wu Xinbo in *The Washington Quarterly*, Autumn.

The Deputy Director of the Center for American Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai observes that since the beginning of the Bush administration many changes, some quite unexpected, have occurred in East Asia as well as in the United States. Even though some have expressed a level of complacency with President George W. Bush's achievements in Asia, U.S. Asia policy practices have been driven by events. Its China policy moved from a perception of Beijing as a "strategic competitor" to seeking cooperative and constructive relations after the EP-3 spy plane midair collision and the September 11 terrorist attacks, by the situation (the North Korean nuclear issue) rather than guided by a deep understanding of the changes occurring in the region and their implications for the United States. The U.S. political elite have yet to reach a consensus on a sound and farsighted Asian policy. They must address three key questions: How should the United States perceive the changing East Asia as well as evolving Chinese and U.S. roles there? How can it construct a more sensible policy toward the region as a whole? How should the United States deal with a rising China?

[ARTICLE 642](#)

**China's Search for Military Power** by M. Taylor Fravel in *Washington Quarterly*, Summer.

Fravel explores China's armed forces and its strategic goals, which include Taiwan, securing China's territory from external threats, and China's emphasis on defending its "maritime rights and interests," and its military doctrine, and the need to maintain a stable external environment within which to continue economic development.

[ARTICLE 643](#)

**Cuba: U.S. Restrictions on Travel and Remittances** by Mark Sullivan. *CRS*, August. 35p.

Restrictions on travel to Cuba have been a key in United States efforts to isolate the communist government of Fidel Castro for much of the past 40 years. Over time, there have been numerous changes to the restrictions, and for five years, from 1977 until 1982, there were no restrictions on travel to Cuba. The House Appropriations Committee reported its version of the FY2009 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill on June 25, 2008, with provisions that would ease restrictions on family travel. It would allow for such travel once a year, instead of the current restriction of once every three years, to visit aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and first cousins in addition to immediate family.

[ARTICLE 644](#)

**Situation Report, Russian Crisis Update** by Frederick Kagan. *Institute for the Study of War*, 13 September.

This update includes the effects of the Georgia crisis on Russia's relations with other members of the CIS and tensions in Eastern Europe.

[ARTICLE 645](#)

**A War to Start All Wars** by Shlomo Ben-Amiin in *Foreign Policy*, September/October.

Israel's former Foreign Minister believes that his country should pull back settlements and give up its '67 gains in order to secure its '48 victory.

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[ARTICLE 646](#)

**The Road Ahead: Progress and Challenges in Iraq** by Michael O'Hanlon & Jason Campbell in *Elections*, Spring.

According to current data, positive trends do in fact exist.

[ARTICLE 647](#)

**How to Leave a Stable Iraq** by Stephen Biddle et al. in *Foreign Affairs*, September/October.

The prognosis for positive change in Iraq is much more encouraging these days, the authors say, and the U.S. may be able start cutting back its troop presence starting in 2010. Sunni insurgents and extremists and the Shiite militias have either suffered crippling military defeat or have stood down and agreed to cease-fires. The Iraqi security forces (ISF) have grown more capable, reliable and credible, as has the Iraqi National Police. Although tensions remain severe, Iraqi political life is changing for the better, and the Iraqi people are rejecting the militias. Given the hopeful circumstances of today, all-out civil war or a wider regional war can be avoided, the authors say.

[Podcast - Listen](#)

[ARTICLE 648](#)

**Standing Down as Iraq Stands Up** by Stephen Biddle et al. *Brookings Institute*, 7 August.

The Iraq war has become one of the most polarizing issues in American politics. Most Democrats, including Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.) want large, early troop cuts; most Republicans, including Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) want U.S. troops to stay until Iraq's stability is guaranteed. A series of positive developments in the past year and a half offers hope that the desire of so many Americans to bring the troops home can be fulfilled without leaving Iraq in chaos. The right approach, in other words, can partly square Obama's goal of redeploying large numbers of U.S. forces sooner rather than later with McCain's goal of ensuring stability in Iraq.

[ARTICLE 649](#)

**The Looming Crisis: Displacement and Security in Iraq** by Elizabeth Ferris. *Brookings Institute*, August 2008. 53p.

Lost in discussions of the military surge, the pace of troop draw downs, and political benchmarks are millions of displaced Iraqi women, children, and men. Their plight is both a humanitarian tragedy and a strategic crisis that is not being addressed. The U.S. administration officials may acknowledge it as an important issue but lack a serious long-term plan to address the crisis. Present and future Iraqi displacement has the potential to change the Middle East landscape in unpredictably adverse ways. But if the U.S. government, the U.N. system, and the non-governmental world do not think strategically about Iraqi displacement, the implications for security in the region could be equally far-reaching.

[ARTICLE 650](#)

**Future U.S. Security Relationships With Iraq and Afghanistan: U.S. Air Forces** by David Thaler et al. *RAND*, 12 August. Note: 183p.

The U.S. is heavily invested in Iraq and Afghanistan, and developments in these two nations will affect not only their own interests but those of their neighbors and the U.S. as well. The authors emphasize that the U.S. must clarify its long-term intentions to the governments and peoples in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the surrounding regions. They describe possible regional security structures and bilateral U.S. relationships with both countries. The authors recommend that the U.S. provide increased, sustained resources for development of the Iraqi and Afghan airpower, because the greater the emphasis on building these capabilities now, the faster indigenous air forces will be able to operate independently, and the operational demands on the U.S. Air Force will diminish.

[ARTICLE 651](#)

**One Policy for China** by Jeffrey Harley in *Harvard International Review*, Winter.

Harley is a visiting fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He is a Captain in the United States Navy where he most recently served as a Destroyer Squadron Commander. In view of changing dynamics between Beijing and Taipei, the United States must revisit its policy now in order to alleviate the growing risk of conflict. To establish a more effective policy toward China, the United States must resolve its existing policy ambiguities and develop an integrated policy toward China while at the same time driving a timeline or process for the reintegration of Taiwan and the PRC.

[ARTICLE 652](#)

**Depoliticizing Zimbabwe's Economy: Solutions for Two Million Percent** by Raymond Gilpin. *USIP*, August.

Zimbabwe is saddled with two million percent annual price increases, rampant corruption and pervasive unemployment. Experts believe that an effort to reform the country's political corruption and irresponsible monetary policies will be central to establishing social and economic stability in the long run.

[ARTICLE 653](#)



**"They Beat Me Like a Dog": Political Persecution of Opposition Activists and Supporters in Zimbabwe**  
*Human Rights Watch*, 12 August. 22p.

The report is based on eyewitness accounts from newly elected MDC Members of Parliament (MPs), councilors, activists, perceived MDC supporters and others to demonstrate the serious nature of abuses committed by ZANU-PF supporters, government-backed youth militia, and "war veterans" in the weeks leading up to the June 27 presidential runoff. These abuses include killings, beatings, abductions, and torture. Human Rights Watch considers that the government has made little effort to dismantle the torture camps and bases that it established in the immediate aftermath of the March 29 elections. The continued existence of these camps and armed ZANU-PF supporters raises the possibility of further violence and highlights the precarious nature of the human rights situation in the country.

**ARTICLE 654**

**A Refugee's Story** by Kiran Bhat in *Harvard International Review*, Winter.

Why "*Asylum Denied*" should be required reading for anyone with an interest in immigration policy.

**ARTICLE 655**

**The United States and Libya: Where Do We Go From Here?** by Michele Dunne. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, September. 6p.

The author, Michele Dunne, warns that following recent diplomatic success in settling long-standing disputes, the United States risks falling into business-as-usual relations with Libya. The United States should set clear, strategic objectives aimed at helping the Libyan people and avoid merely putting more resources into the hands of regime insiders and crony capitalists.

**ARTICLE 656**

**Before the Day After: Using PreDetonation Nuclear Forensics to Improve Fissile Material Security** by Daniel Chivers et al. in *Arms Control Today*, July/August.

The next U.S. administration will face many challenges, but none likely more pressing than combating the threat of nuclear terrorism. The authors believe that the international community lacks clear, enforceable standards for fissile material protection now, and that there is a need for a global campaign to improve physical protection standards for countries that have weapons-usable material in order to prevent the sale, theft or diversion of fissile material. They recommend a comprehensive international database with countries voluntarily sharing information; this would greatly aid the ability to determine the source of interdicted fissile material or material collected in a post-nuclear attack.

**ARTICLE 657**

**Briefing the New President: The Terrorist Threat in Indonesia and Southeast Asia** by Sidney Jones in *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, July.

Jones, advisor to the International Crisis Group's Asia program, asserts that counterterrorism capacity in Southeast Asia is improving, reducing the likelihood of a major attack on Western targets in the near term. However, jihadi ideology has taken root in Indonesia, and while the region's largest terrorist organization, Jemaah Islamiyah, appears to be more interested in rebuilding than mounting operations, its members still constitute an important recruitment pool for other groups. The author argues that while the Iraq insurgency has not attracted Southeast Asian participation, the resurgence of the Taliban on the Afghan-Pakistan border could. Moreover, the U.S., under the next president, could help develop better information sharing between South and Southeast Asia. Southeast Asia may not be the "second front" that many feared after the first Bali bombs, but the terrorism threat in the region has not gone away.

**ARTICLE 658**

**A War Without End** by Leon Sigal in *World Policy Journal*, Fall.

Sigal, with the Social Science Research Council in New York, examines the war in Iraq and specifically at exit strategies for the U.S. He finds little in America's historical experience with war termination that prepares it for ending the war in Iraq. For the U.S., the costs of exiting Iraq without ending the war will be great, but America will have to bear those costs eventually. He believes that at this point, the U.S. should not prolong a fight it cannot finish; the Iraqis themselves will have to end this war and reconcile with each other.

**ARTICLE 659**

**Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict** by Maria Stephan & Erica Chenoweth in *International Security*, Summer. 38p.

Stephan, Director of Educational Initiatives at the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, and Chenoweth, Professor of Government at Wesleyan University, note that the historical record indicates that nonviolent campaigns have been more successful than armed campaigns in achieving ultimate goals in political struggles, even when used against similar opponents and in the face of repression. They test their claims based on data of all known major nonviolent and violent resistance campaigns from 1900 to 2006, and assert that these dynamics are further explored in case studies of resistance campaigns in Southeast Asia that have featured periods of both violent and nonviolent resistance.

**ARTICLE 660**

**Closing Time: Assessing the Iranian Threat to the Strait of Hormuz** by Caitlin Talmadge in *International Security*, Summer.

The author contemplates how Iran might retaliate in the aftermath of a limited Israeli or U.S. strike; the most economically devastating of Iran's potential responses would be closure of the Strait of Hormuz. She asserts that if Iran were able to properly coordinate its efforts, it could halt or impede traffic in the Strait of Hormuz for a month or more. U.S. attempts to reopen the waterway would escalate rapidly into sustained, large-scale air and naval operations during which Iran could impose significant economic and military costs on the United States. Talmadge believes that the aftermath of limited strikes on Iran would be complicated and costly, suggesting needed changes U.S. force posture and energy policy.

**ARTICLE 661**

**A Look at Terrorist Behavior: How They Prepare, When They Strike** by Brent Smith. *National Institute of Justice*, 31 July. 5p.

There is very little information available on terrorists' behavioral patterns. Research has shown that traditional criminals are spontaneous, but terrorists seem to go to great lengths preparing for their attacks and may commit other crimes while doing so. The study finds that most terrorists live close to their selected targets, and they engage in a great deal of preparation, some over the course of months or even years, which has the potential of coming to the attention of local law enforcement.

**ARTICLE 662**

**The Not-So-Black Art of Public Diplomacy** by Humphrey Taylor in *World Policy Journal*, Winter.

Humphrey Taylor, Chairman of the Harris Poll, defines public diplomacy as how leaders and countries explain themselves and their policies to the world. Most people around the world do not see themselves as others see them. Children are taught that their country is better than others and the media and politicians reinforce these beliefs. Public diplomacy should work closely with traditional diplomacy and rely upon culture and values to promote goodwill and respect between countries. Taylor says that National leaders have the power to shape foreigners' opinions of their countries, for better and worse.

**ARTICLE 663**

**An Olympic Lift to U.S.-China Relations** by Li Cheng et al. *Brookings Institute*, 5 August.

The survey in the report shows that the people of both China and the U.S. widely accept the growing importance of the US-China relationship. The polling shows that 52% of Americans hold favorable views of China, while 60% of Chinese hold favorable views of America. The greatest opportunity is for the 20,000 foreign journalists converging on Beijing, many of whom are fanning out across China, to see and to report on the country in its vast fullness. The authors believe that a broader and more nuanced portrayal of China in the media is critical to the enhancement of Americans' understanding as well as to progress by policymakers.

**ARTICLE 664**

**Unnatural Increase? A Short History of Population Trends and Influences** by Robert Engelman in *World Watch*, September/October.

A mixed picture reflecting confusing media messages.

**ARTICLE 665**

**Suits Against Terrorist States by Victims of Terrorism** by Jennifer Elsea. *CRS*, 10 August. 80p.

In 1996 Congress amended the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA) to allow U.S. victims of terrorism to sue designated State sponsors of terrorism for their terrorist acts. The courts have handed down large judgments against the terrorist State defendants, generally in default, and successive Administrations have intervened to block the judicial attachment of frozen assets to satisfy judgments. The report provides background on the doctrine of State immunity and the FSIA.

**ARTICLE 666**

**The Case for Humanitarian Intervention** by Christopher Hitchens in *Foreign Policy*, September/October.

Because borders are becoming ever more porous and contingent, everyone should have an interest in humanitarian intervention.

**ARTICLE 667**

**Economic Impacts of Immigration: A Survey** by Sari Pekkala Kerr & William Kerr. *Harvard Business School*, 2 September. 37p.

The paper surveys recent empirical studies on the economic impacts of immigration. Particular emphasis is given to the experiences of Northern Europe and Scandinavia. The survey first examines the magnitude of immigration as an economic phenomenon in various host countries. The second part deals with the assimilation of immigrant workers in host-country labor markets and the use of social benefits by immigrants. The survey then considers the effect of immigration on the labor market outcomes of natives. The paper concludes with studies of immigration's impact for the public sector of host countries.

**ARTICLE 668**

**Intelligence Reform at the Department of Energy: Policy Issues and Organizational Alternatives** by Alfred Cumming. *CRS*, 12 August. 28p.

In 2006, Congress temporarily consolidated separate counterintelligence (*CI*) offices at the Department of Energy (*DOE*) and the National Security Administration (*NSA*) into a single CI office under DOE control. DOE had complained that the dual office structure was ineffective. At the same time, in 2006, DOE combined its separate Offices of Intelligence, and Counterintelligence into a new DOE office called the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence. The report analyzes both consolidations and examines the impact of each on the effectiveness of the Department's *CI* program.

**ARTICLE 669**

***Some International Relations online resources which may be of interest:***

**President Bush addresses the UN General Assembly** 23 September.

**Remarks by U.S. Sec. of State Condoleezza Rice at annual State Dept. IFTAR Dinner** 9 September.

**United States' Commitment to Multilateralism** Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, 15 September.

**United Nations Management Reform** Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, 11 September.

**International Meeting on Next Generation Safeguards** Presentation by Patricia McNerney, U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation, 11 September.

**The United States' Commitment to Human Rights** Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, 17 September.

**2008 Report on International Religious Freedom** *U.S. Dept of State*, September. **Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice** **Remarks by John V. Hanford III, U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom**

**Why Nuclear Smuggling Matters** by Rens Lee in *Orbis*, Summer 2008.

**Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia: Political Developments and Implications for U.S. Interests** *CRS*, 13 August.



**Egypt: Background and U.S. Relations** *CRS*, 12 August.

**Pakistan's Institutions and Civil Society** Backgrounder by Jayshree Bajoria. *CFR*, 25 August.

**Legacy or Complacency? Lula's Unfinished Business in Brazil** *American Enterprise Institute*, 6 August.

**Conservative Internationalism: Jefferson to Polk to Truman to Reagan** by Henry R. Nau. *Policy Review*, Aug./Sept.

**The Americas Competitiveness Forum** Atlanta, August 17-19, 2008 (efforts to improve competitiveness and economic prosperity in the Americas). **Preview** by U.S. Sec. Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez, *Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State*, 11 August.

**Is Brain Drain Good for Africa?** Brief analysis by Stephanie Hanson. *CFR*, 21 August.

**Strategic Leadership: Framework for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century National Security Policy** *Center for a New American Security*, July. 36p. **Summary**

**U.S. and Japan: A Joint Approach to South and Central Asia** Briefing and press conference by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard A. Boucher, in Tokyo, 8 August.

**The Kissinger Institute on China and the United States** inaugurated by the *Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars* on 29 July.

**The Right Way to Engage China** by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson Jr. *Foreign Affairs*, September-October 2008

**China's Foreign Policy: What Does It Mean for Global U.S. Interests?** *CRS*, 18 July.

**Stabilizing and Rebuilding Iraq: Iraqi Revenues, Expenditures, and Surplus** *GAO*, August.

**A Perspective on China** Address by Richard W. Fisher, President & CEO, Fed. Res. Bank of Dallas, 18 August.

**Bombers, Bank Accounts, and Bleedout: Al-Qa'ida's Road In and Out of Iraq** Edited by Brian Fishman. *Combating Terrorism Center* at West Point, July. 126p.

**MANPADS fact sheet** 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, *U.S. Dept of State*, 31 July. (hazards posed by man-portable air-defense systems, MANPADS)

**National Emergency Communications Plan** Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of Homeland Security*, 31 July.

**The Endgame in Iraq** by Frederick W. Kagan et al. *American Enterprise Institute*, 15 September.

**Iraqi Public Opinion on the Presence of U.S. Troops** Testimony, Steven Kull, *PIPA, WorldPublicOpinion.org*  
Addresses the question of how the Iraqi people view the presence of US troops in Iraq and, more importantly, what they want to see happen in the future. As I will demonstrate, the Iraqi people are showing signs of impatience with the pace of US withdrawal.

**GA Reliance On Smart Power – Reforming the Foreign Assistance Bureaucracy** by Gerald F. Hyman, Senior Advisor at CSIS and President of the Hills Program on Governance testified before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia.

**No Longer in the News, Earthquake Survivors Face a Painful Recovery** - ...The weekend prior to this latest aftershock, Deborah Fallows visited the region to report on the recovery and the people still dealing with the original earthquake's devastation. What follows is her reporting from that weekend.

## **POLITICS / ELECTIONS**

**The Electoral College** *U.S. Dept of State, Office of Int. Information Programs, eJournal USA*, September 2008.

More than 100 million voters are likely to cast ballots in nationwide U.S. elections November 4. But only 538 men and women will elect the next president of the United States, and those elections will take place in 50 state capitals and in Washington, D.C., December 15. This indirect election system, called the Electoral College and devised in 1787 by the framers of the Constitution, puzzles Americans and non-Americans alike. It reflects the federal governing system of allocating powers not only to a national government and to the people but also to the states. A look at how the Electoral College works, how it stirs controversy, and how the world views it.

**Is Your Political Campaign Volunteer Friendly?** by Charles Hobson, *Campaigns and Elections*, '02.

There are two most important determinates of volunteer satisfaction.

**ARTICLE 670**

**Law on Political Activity Restricts, Protects Government Workers Hatch Act: Promotes Nonpolitical Civil Service, But Limits Free Speech** by Bridget Hunter on *America.gov*, 4 September.

A 70-year-old U.S. law attempts to strike a balance between ensuring a politically neutral government work force and protecting the constitutional rights of government workers.

**ARTICLE 671**

**The Accidental Foreign Policy** by Matthew Yglesias in *The Atlantic*, June. 3p.

Yglesias, Atlantic Monthly associate editor, focuses on the foreign policy views of 2008 U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama, and on American public opinion of Obama's foreign policy views. Obama demonstrates a new approach to foreign policy by indicating a willingness to hold direct negotiations with leaders of rogue states, committing to eventual global nuclear disarmament, balancing American military priorities toward Afghanistan, softening the embargo on Cuba and widening the focus of democracy promotion to include other development goals, with the objective of more effectively preventing terrorist recruitment.

**ARTICLE 672**

**You Don't Need a Home to Vote!** *National Coalition for the Homeless*, 20 August. 45p.

Equal access to the right to vote is a crucial part of maintaining a true democracy. Voting allows people to play a part in deciding the direction of their communities by voicing their opinion on issues that are important and relevant to their lives. Each election low income and homeless individuals vote at a lower rate than people with higher incomes. For years homeless citizens have had obstacles to registering. The manual provides ideas to help overcome the many obstacles and outlines multiple strategies to register, educate, and mobilize voters.

**ARTICLE 673**

**How Obama Won the Nomination** by Jay Cost in *Policy Review*, August/September.

Cost posits that Obama was favored by the delegate allocation system, and that he won not simply because he had more supporters, but also because the "rules of the game" which made supporters better at generating delegates. To see how this occurred, he looks at the voting coalitions that Obama and Hillary Clinton forged over the course of their five-month primary battle. Then, he investigated the rules of the delegate allocation process to see how they translated each candidate's votes into delegates.

**ARTICLE 674**

**Economic Realities Are Killing Our Era of Fantasy Politics** by Matt Taibbi on *AlterNet*, 19 July.

The author, a writer for Rolling Stone magazine, predicts that during the coming presidential election campaign, the Republican and Democratic candidates and media will feed the American public various storylines couched as the "national debate" that will obscure the most pressing issue -- the disappearance of the American middle class. He says the national debate will not focus on haves and have-nots, rich and poor, or employers versus employees. With the manufacturing sector of the U.S. economy shipped abroad, the service/managerial economy can no longer support a healthy middle class. He says the Democratic Party does not embrace the issue of declining living standards because it is funded by corporate money, just as the Republican Party is.

**ARTICLE 675**

**State Governments' Use of *Help America Vote Act* Funds** *U.S. Election Assist. Commission, 22 July. 40p.*

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission's report to Congress on state government spending of *Help America Vote Act (HAVA)* funds, amounts to nearly three billion dollars. States have spent 67% of it and the 64% of that spent went toward acquiring and administering voting system technology. **ARTICLE 676**

***Some Election online resources which may be of interest:***

**Official 2008 Republican Platform**

**Official 2008 Democratic Platform**

**Daily Presidential Tracking Poll**

**Gallup Daily Tracking Poll**

**Electoral College Update:** Race Still Close With Eight Weeks to Go.

**\*\*\* 2008 Presidential and Vice-Presidential Debate Schedule \*\*\* Presidential Debate History**

**John McCain on Foreign Policy Issues**

**Barack Obama on Foreign Policy Issues**

**Presidential Debates** Information links compiled by the *Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State.*

**Conventional Wisdom** - Your handy guide to America's political conventions both past and present.

**Where they Really Stand Among Women** – Gallup Daily Tracking finds McCain leading Obama among white women 47% to 45% in the latest weekly aggregate.

**Most Approve of Wall Street Bailout and See Obama as Better Able to Address Crisis** - By a margin of almost two-to-one the American public thinks the government is doing the right thing in investing billions of dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure...

**Cell Phones and the 2008 Vote: An Update** - ...As the number of Americans who are reachable only by cell phones rises, interest continues to grow in the question of whether public opinion polls that do not include cell phones are accurately measuring the relative levels of support for the two candidates.

**/Rasmussen Swing State Polling** - Polling this week in **Florida** and **Ohio** shows little net change from the previous week with McCain holding a very modest advantage in each state. McCain and Obama both increased their level of support slightly in each as the number of undecided/third party voters declined by three points in each.

**What States Are Really in Play?** - In terms of political momentum, when the topic being debated is national security or social issues and values, McCain benefits. When the topic is a souring economy or financial crisis, Obama wins. So this week, it is Obama's week to ride with the tide.

**Shifts in Last Two Months of Election Not Uncommon** - A question of keen interest to election observers is the following: To what degree do presidential elections change between the end of the political conventions and Election Day?

**MEET THE NEW MAP---SAME AS THE OLD MAP (ALMOST)** - In early summer, the Crystal Ball took its first look at the likely November 4th Electoral College map...We based our map not just on current polling but also the recent historical record in presidential elections...As we revise it in this essay, we will once again add a dose of history to current trends, and at least tentatively, we will attempt to narrow the number of toss-ups.

**Foreign Policy and Political Nominating Conventions** Backgrounder by Joanna Klonsky. *CFR*, 21 August.

**FEC Summarizes Party Financial Activity** *FEC* news release, 15 August.

**A Parliamentary-Style Question Period: Proposals and Issues for Congress** CRS, 29 July.

**More Americans Question Religion's Role in Politics** - A new survey finds a narrow majority of the public saying that churches and other houses of worship should keep out of political matters and not express their views on day-to-day social and political matters.

**Men or Women: Who's the Better Leader?** - Americans believe women have the right stuff to be political leaders. When it comes to honesty, intelligence and a handful of other character traits they value highly in leaders, the public rates women superior to men, according to a new nationwide Pew Research Center Social and Demographic Trends survey.

**MySpace and the Commission on Presidential Debates** have "announced a landmark voter education partnership for the upcoming Presidential and Vice Presidential Debate series", and MySpace is developing this website in support of the partnership's objectives.

**What An Election!** Two tickets full of history, one headed by the first African-American in position to become president, the other with a woman situated to become the nation's first female vice president. Could it be that, in this increasingly diverse nation, we have seen the last of the all-white male party offerings that have characterized every presidential election in American history until 2008?

**Sarah Palin: A Good Surprise** - An old expression in politics asserts, "There is no such thing as a good surprise." John McCain's selection of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his vice presidential running mate was a surprise to many.

**Palin's VP Selection Speech** (video and transcript) - "Thank you, Senator McCain... I am honored to be chosen as your running mate... Politics isn't just a game of competing interests and clashing parties. The people of America expect us to seek public office and to serve for the right reasons."

**On Economy, McCain Gains Ground on Obama** - 48% of Americans say Barack Obama can better handle the economy, while 45% choose John McCain. This marks a significant gain by McCain; just before the Democratic National Convention in late August, Obama had a 16-point margin over McCain on the economy.

**FOX/Rasmussen Swing State Polling** - Rasmussen Reports conducted five state telephone surveys in partnership with Fox News Channel on September 7, 2008. The surveys were conducted in **Colorado, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia**. A total of 500 Likely Voters were interviewed in each state using the Rasmussen Reports automated telephone survey methodology.

**McCain Now Winning Majority of Independents** - John McCain's 6 percentage-point bounce in voter support spanning the Republican National Convention is largely explained by political independents shifting to him in fairly big numbers, from 40% pre-convention to 52% post-convention in Gallup Poll Daily tracking.

**Republicans' Enthusiasm Jumps After Convention** - As the remarkable two-week stretch of back-to-back presidential nomination conventions ends, a weekend (*USA Today*/Gallup Poll) finds that the John McCain-Sarah Palin ticket has more than matched the Barack Obama-Joe Biden ticket's convention bounce of last week.

**Absentee Ballot Fraud: A Stolen Election in Greene County, Alabama** - In the 1990s in Greene County, Alabama, citizens, local political candidates, federal and state prosecutors, and a local newspaper joined together to fight absentee ballot fraud in the county, one of the poorest in Alabama.

**Top 25 Competitive Congressional Races** - Think this is going to be another big year for Democrats? They have chances, but they also have a lot of territory to defend. Think Republicans can crawl back? Not until they deal with fundamental issues that sent them to the minority in 2006.

**The Economy Vote** - As Democrats and Republicans push into the final stretch of the 2008 presidential elections, economic concerns remain an enigmatic element of the U.S. electoral landscape.

## TRADE / ECONOMY

**New Estimates of Fundamental Equilibrium Exchange Rates** by William Clune & John Williamson. *Peterson Institute for International Economics*, 7 August. 20p.

The study concludes that the dollar is still significantly overvalued against a number of Asian currencies, most prominently the Chinese renminbi and the Japanese yen. The renminbi needs to rise by about 30% against the dollar and the yen should strengthen by about 20%. A number of other Asian currencies also need to appreciate substantially. The study also concludes that the euro and the pound were, at the time, overvalued on average.

[ARTICLE 677](#)

**OPEC Revenues Fact Sheet.** *Energy Information Administration*, 12 August.

The Energy Information Administration estimates that members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) earned \$671 billion in net oil export revenues in 2007, a 10% increase from 2006. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$194 billion, representing 29% of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earning reached \$1,137, an 8% increase from 2006. Through July, OPEC had earned an estimated \$642 billion in net oil export earnings in 2008.

[ARTICLE 678](#)

**The Year in Trade 2007** *U.S. International Trade Commission*, 6 August. Note: 229p.

The report provides a practical review of U.S. international trade laws and actions in 2007, a summary of the operation of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and an overview of U.S. free trade agreements and negotiations and of U.S. bilateral trade relations with major trading partners. It also includes complete listings of antidumping, countervailing duty, safeguard, intellectual property rights infringement, and section 301 cases undertaken by the U.S. government in 2007.

[ARTICLE 679](#)

**A Strategic Economic Engagement** by Henry M. Paulson Jr. in *Foreign Policy*, September/October.

The U.S. Secretary of the Treasury says one of the first challenges the next U.S. president will face will be how to respond to China's emergence as a global power. While some suggest that China is a threat that must be countered or contained, others argue that its growth is an opportunity for the U.S. economy and that Washington should manage this rising power through engagement. Paulson says the prosperity of the United States and China depends on helping China further integrate into the global economic system.

[ARTICLE 680](#)

**Islamic Finance: Overview and Policy Concerns** by Shayerah Ilias. *CRS*, 15 August. 6p.

Islamic finance is based on principles of shariah, or "Islamic law." Major principles of shariah are a ban on interest, a ban on uncertainty, adherence to risk sharing and profit-sharing, promotion of ethical investments that enhance society, and asset-backing. The international market for Islamic finance has grown 10% to 15% annually in recent years. Critics of Islamic finance express concerns about possible ties between Islamic finance and political agendas or terrorist financing and the use of Islamic finance to circumvent U.S. economic sanctions. Proponents argue that Islamic finance presents significant new business opportunities and provides alternate methods for capital formation and economic development.

[ARTICLE 681](#)

**Money Laundering in Digital Currencies** National Drug Intelligence Center, U.S. Department of Justice, 21 July.

Digital currencies combine the intrinsic value of gold and other precious metals as well as the designated value of national currencies with the worldwide reach of the Internet to create an ideal mechanism for international money laundering. Users can anonymously fund digital currency accounts, send those funds (sometimes in unlimited amounts) to other digital currency accounts worldwide, and effectively exchange the funds for foreign currencies--often while bypassing U.S. regulatory oversight.

[ARTICLE 682](#)

**Comparing Global Influence: China and U.S. Diplomacy, Foreign Aid, Trade, and Investment in the Developing World** by Thomas Lum et al. *CRS*, 15 August.



The authors compare the People's Republic of China's (PRC) and U.S. projections of global influence, with an emphasis on non-coercive means, or "soft power," and suggest ways to think about U.S. foreign policy options in light of China's emergence. Experts believe that U.S. diplomatic and foreign aid efforts have been hampered by organizational restructuring, inadequate staffing levels, and foreign policies that remain unpopular abroad.

**ARTICLE 683**

***Some Trade/Economics online resources which may be of interest:***

**Greenspan: This is the Worst Economy I've Ever Seen**

**The Economic Outlook** Hearing, *Joint Economic Committee, U.S. Congress*, 24 September.

**A Weakened Economy: How to Respond?** Hearing, *U.S. House Committee on the Budget*, 9 September.

**The Future of Financial Services: Exploring Solutions for the Market Crisis** Hearing, *U.S. House Comm. on Financial Services*, 24 Sept.

**The Cost of Government Financial Interventions** Past and Present. *CRS*, 23 September.

**57% of Public Favors Wall Street Bailout; Obama Seen as Better Able to Address Crisis.** Pew, 23 Sept..

**Economy Now the Most Important Issue for Americans by a Low Margin** - the latest Harris Poll finds that the financial crisis has moved the economy, which was already at the top of the list of concerns for Americans, far ahead of all other political issues that people want the government to address.

**False Notes from the Fed, the Treasury, and the SEC** - In recent weeks, the Federal Reserve, the Treasury, and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) have taken actions that could have profound impact on the nation's financial system. Allan H. Meltzer, the nation's leading historian of the Fed, notes that institution's sorry record as a supervisor and regulator and asks why the Fed should now supervise investment banks.

**Comprehensive Approach to Market Developments** U.S. Secretary of Treasury Henry Paulson Jr, 19 Sept.

**Proposed Treasury Authority to Purchase Troubled Assets** Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of Treasury*, 20 September.

**SEC Halts Short Selling of Financial Stocks to Protect Investors and Markets** *SEC* news release, 19 September. **Text**

**Confronting Economic Challenges Head-On** Fact sheet. *White House* fact sheet, 19 September.

**Do Central Banks Have an Exit Strategy?** Commentary by Kenneth Rogoff. *Brookings*, 15 September.

**The 19<sup>th</sup> U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT).** Fact sheet, 16 September.

**Maintaining Stability in a Changing Financial System** Symposium at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, organized by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, 21-23 August.

**Real Time Data Research Center, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia** This facility, launched, August'08, "enables researchers, forecasters, and monetary policymakers to look back at the past to observe the data that monetary policymakers were confronted with at the time their decisions re interest rates were made".

**New Estimates of Fundamental Equilibrium Exchange Rates** Policy brief by William R. Cline and John Williamson. *Peterson Institute for International Economics*, July. 20p. **Summary** and a News Release, **"Key Asian Currencies Still Substantially Undervalued with Respect to Dollar"**

**Islamic Finance: Overview and Policy Concerns** *CRS*, 29 July.

## ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY

**Presidential Science Lessons** by Josh McDaniel in *E: Environment Magazine*, September/October.

Guidelines for the next President.

**ARTICLE 684**

**Save the Environment: Drill, Baby, Drill** by Robert Hahn. *AEI*, 15 September.

Opening more federal lands and waters to oil exploration and drilling could produce \$1.7 trillion in net benefits to be shared among producers, governments (both state and federal), and consumers. Why is this mantra widely viewed as the cure for what ails?

**ARTICLE 685**

**Strong as the Weakest Link: Medical Response to a Catastrophic Event** by Eileen Salinsky. *National Health Policy Forum*, 14 August. 30p.

Natural disasters and acts of terrorism have placed a spotlight on the ability of health care providers to surge in response to catastrophic conditions. The paper reviews the status of efforts to develop the capacity and capabilities of the health care system to respond to disasters and other mass casualty events. Strategies for adapting routine medical practices and protocols to the demands posed by extraordinary circumstances and scarce resources are summarized. Existing federal roles, responsibilities, and assets relative to the contributions of state and local government and the private sector are described, including specific programmatic activities such as the Strategic National Stockpile, the National Disaster Medical System, and the Hospital Preparedness Program. **ARTICLE 686**

**The Ethics of Climate Change: Pay Now or Pay More Later?** by John Broome in *Scientific American*, May.

Broome notes that future generations will suffer most of the harmful effects of global climate change; yet if the world economy grows, they will be richer than we are. The present generation must decide, with the help of economists, whether to aggressively reduce the chances of future harm or to let our descendants largely fend for themselves. Economists cannot avoid making ethical choices in formulating their advice; even the small chance of utter catastrophe from global warming raises special problems for ethical discussion. **ARTICLE 687**

**Can a Million Tons of Sulphur Dioxide Combat Climate Change** by Chris Money in *Wired*, July.

Reducing greenhouse gases is the strategy most discussed in political circles as means to address climate change. In scientific circles, however, cooling the planet by "salting" the oceans or the atmosphere with substances that might change the chemistry of global warming is gaining increasing attention. Mooney focuses on Ken Caldeira, an anti-nuclear activist in the 1980s, whose scientific career led him to the creation of models indicating that spewing millions of tons of sulfur dioxide which would deflect enough heat to prevent the melting of ice caps and the resulting sea level rise. **ARTICLE 688**

**Clean Energy Conference Offers New Directions: Private and Public Sectors See Practical, Renewable Energy Solutions** by Lea Terhune on *America.gov*, 8 August.

Leaders from business and government propose ways to reduce dependence on fossil fuels by providing incentives for industry to develop renewable energy technologies and for individuals to use them. **ARTICLE 689**

**Oil Drilling in Environmentally Sensitive Areas: The Role of the Media** Mark Weisbrot and Nichole Szembrot. *Center for Economic and Policy Research*. September 2008. 4p.

The media has played a significant role in convincing Americans that offshore drilling for oil in the United States could significantly lower the price of gasoline, according to the analysis. Even though the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Agency has stated that the benefits from such drilling would be too small to have any significant effect on oil prices, the media has overwhelmingly conveyed the impression that it could. Media coverage of the issue may have influenced public opinion, with a majority now favoring expanded drilling, as proposed by presidential candidate John McCain. **ARTICLE 690**

**Oceans in Crisis: Can the Loss of Biodiversity Be Halted?** on *CQ.com*, 2007. 28p.

The damage is being caused by over-fishing, climate change and destruction of habitat due to coastal development and pollution. Scientists and policymakers agree that a broad-based approach of eco-system management is needed to help restore ocean productivity but significant international cooperation will be needed to achieve this.

**ARTICLE 691**

**Facing the Freshwater Crisis** by Peter Rogers in *Scientific American*, August.

Global freshwater resources are threatened by rising demands from many quarters. Growing populations need ever more water for drinking, hygiene, sanitation, food production, and industry. Climate change, meanwhile, is expected to contribute to droughts. Rogers says that policymakers need to figure out how to supply water without degrading the natural ecosystems that provide it. Existing low-tech approaches can help prevent scarcity, as can improved methods to desalinate water. But governments at all levels need to start setting policies and making investments in infrastructure for water conservation now.

**ARTICLE 692**

**Biofuels, Neither Saviour or Scam: The Case for a Selective Strategy** by Suzanne Hunt in *World Policy Journal*, Spring.

Hunt, an independent consultant to the U.S. Energy Department, weighs carefully the advantages and disadvantages of biofuels, both oversimplified in a debate about their potential role in addressing energy needs and climate change. She says that the production and use of biofuels is associated with trade-offs and risks but also with opportunities, and that dealing rationally with this energy source requires developing effective safeguards against the risks and capitalizing on the opportunities. The primary concern is that without them "a biofuels free-for-all could develop that would pay little regard to sustainability and environmental concerns," she says. Also, it is important to consider biofuels in a broader context of agriculture-related climate-change mitigation efforts. She concludes that more sustainable farm practices can help ensure that both future biofuels and agriculture meet sustainability targets.

**ARTICLE 693**

**Biofuels and the Food Price Crisis: A Survey of the Issues** by Kimberly Elliott. *Center for Global Development*, 11 August.

While the precise contribution of bio-fuels to surging food prices is difficult to know, policies promoting production of the bio-fuels are not achieving objectives of increased energy independence or reduced greenhouse gas emissions. It has been known that the net energy and greenhouse gas emission benefits of corn-based ethanol are relatively small because its production is energy-intensive. Recent scientific studies suggest that the current generation of bio-fuels, including bio-diesel made from palm oil, soybeans, and rapeseed, as well as corn-based ethanol, actually add to greenhouse gas emissions relative to petroleum-based fuels when land use changes are taken into account.

**ARTICLE 694**

**The Meat of the Matter: Our Livestock Industry Creates More Greenhouse Gas than Transportation Does** by Jim Motavalli in *E: Environment Magazine*, August/September.

The methane that cattle and their manure produce has a global warming effect equal to that of 33 million automobiles," the Center for Science in the Public Interest reports.

**ARTICLE 695**

**Immigration to the U.S. and World-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions** by Leon Kolankiewicz & Steven A. Camarota. *Center for Immigration Studies*, 17 August. 12p.

The findings of the study indicate that future levels of immigration will have a significant impact on efforts to reduce global CO2 emissions. Immigration to the United States significantly increases world-wide CO2 emissions because it transfers population from lower-polluting parts of the world to the United States, which is a higher-polluting country. On average immigrants increase their emissions four-fold by coming to America. **ARTICLE 696**

***Some environmental online resources which may be of interest:***

**Energy Security and Climate Change – an International Overview** Remarks by U.S. Under Secretary of State Paula J. Dobriansky in Nassau, Bahamas, 24 July.

**Challenges for Nuclear Power Expansion** Backgrounder by Toni Johnson. *CFR*, 11 August.

**Airline Fuel Cost and Consumption Data** (United States)

**A National Water Initiative: Coordinating and Improving Federal Research on Water** Hearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology, 23 July.

**A Reason to Believe: Examining the Factors that Determine Americans' Views on Global Warming** by Christopher P. Borick & Barry G. Rabe. *Brookings*, July. 14p. **Summary**

**Wind Power** Bibliography by Science Reference Services, *Library of Congress*, 4 August.

**Capturing the Wind: The Challenges of a New Energy Source in Texas** *Texas House Res. Org.* 8 July. 20p.

**China's Environmental Crisis** Backgrounder by Carin Zissis & Jayshree Bajoria. *CFR*, 4 August.

**A Call for a Strategic U.S. Approach to the Global Food Crisis: Report of the CSIS Task Force on the Global Food Crisis** *Center for Strategic and International Studies*, Georgetown University, July. 14p.

**Agricultural Prices 2007 Summary** *USDA*, July. Note: 238p.

**Our Changing Planet: The U.S. Climate Change Science Program for Fiscal Year 2009** A report by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program and the Subcommittee on Global Change Research, July 2008.  
**Brief description**

**Climate Models: An Assessment of Strengths and Limitations** A project of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program. **Final ed.** released 31 July.

**Offshore Aquaculture in the United States: Economic Considerations, Implications and Opportunities** *NOAA*, July. Note: 272p.  
News Release, "**Report: Offshore Aquaculture Would Benefit U.S. Economy**"

**Predators as Prey: Why Healthy Oceans Need Sharks** *Oceana*, July. 20p. **Press Release**

**Governments, Industry Working to Stem CO2 Emissions from Coal**

**Clean-Energy Fuels Create Buzz on Capitol Hill**

**The Green Road to Economic Recovery** Hearing, *U.S. House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Climate Change*, 18 September.

**Policy Options to Prevent Climate Change** Hearing, *U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means*, 18 Sept.

**Emerging Contaminants in U.S. Waters** Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 18 September.

**Silent Streams? Escalating Endangerment for North American Freshwater Fish: Nearly 40 Percent Now At-Risk** News release, *U.S. Geological Survey*, 9 September - with link to data.

## AMERICAN SOCIETY

**The Paralympics** - Melissa Stockwell, a disabled swimmer, discusses the importance of the Paralympic Games.

**WATCH VIDEO**

**Disaster Preparedness in Urban and Immigrant Communities.** *Tomas Rivera Policy Institute & Asia Pacific American Legal Center.* Web posted 18 July. 36p.

Findings of a study of selected Latino and Asian immigrant communities in Southern California for disaster education and response preparations include a lack of disaster preparedness materials in languages other than English that reflect the demographics of the service populations, and a shortage of bilingual staff and volunteers among emergency response crews and nonprofits that typically do outreach during emergencies. **ARTICLE 697**

**The Unpaid Care Work-Paid Work Connection** by Rania Anonopoulos. *Levy Economic Institute, Bard College,* 6 August. 96p.

Gender-based wage differentials and occupational segregation continue to characterize the division of labor among men and women in paid work. However, unpaid work in social reproduction, subsistence production, family businesses, and the community is often ignored. Beyond the obvious gender inequalities, unpaid work constitutes an integral part of any functioning economy, and as such is linked to economic growth, government policy, migration, and many development issues. The paper concludes that gender equality must be understood through the paid-unpaid work continuum. **ARTICLE 698**

**Getting in Sync: State-Local Fiscal Partnerships for Public Safety** by Mary Shilton et al. *Pew Center on the States,* July. 8p.

Some offenders need to be put in prison while others can be managed safely on probation in the community. But judges and prosecutors often face the difficult task of figuring out what to do with defendants who don't fit cleanly into either group. When the right choice isn't clear, many court officers say they feel compelled to send offenders to prison because of a lack of confidence or capacity in their community corrections programs. Escalating state prison populations and costs are spurring fresh interest in partnerships that align state and local finances with policy goals.

**ARTICLE 699**

**Homeward Bound: Recent Immigration Enforcement and the Decline in the Illegal Alien Population** by Steven A. Camarota & Karen Jensenius. *Center for Immigration Studies,* 31 July. 12p.

Monthly data collected by the Census Bureau through May 2008 shows a significant decline in the number of less-educated, young Hispanic immigrants in the country. The evidence indicates that the illegal immigrant population may have declined by over one million in the last year. There are indications that immigration enforcement is responsible for at least part of the decline along with the state of the economy. **ARTICLE 700**

**A Call for a Strategic U.S. Approach to the Global Food Crisis** *CSIS,* 31 July. 14p.

In response to the growing global food crisis, the *Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)* launched a task force to assess the rising humanitarian, security, developmental, and market impacts of rising food costs and shortages. It argues for modernizing and doubling emergency assistance, elevating rural development and agricultural productivity to be new foreign policy priorities, and calls for a revision of the U.S. approach to bio-fuels so that fuel and food security objectives are not in conflict with each other. **ARTICLE 701**

**Fact Sheet: Department of Justice Efforts to Combat Cyber Crimes** U.S. Dept. of Justice, 5 August. 3p.

President Bush created an interagency *Identity Theft Task Force* to combat identity theft. Its 31 recommendations include protecting personal data in the private and public sector, investigating and prosecuting data breaches and related identity theft, and assisting victims of identity theft. The Task Force has worked to implement the recommendations over the last year across the government and with its private sector and international partners.

**ARTICLE 702**



**How China Helps America's Poor** by Heather Wilhelm in *The American*, September/October.

From 1994 to 2005, much of the increase in U.S. income inequality was actually offset by a decline in the price index of the goods that poorer households consume. Inflation for the richest 10% of U.S. households, which tend to spend more on services, was 6% *higher* than inflation for the poorest 10%, which tend to spend more on nondurable goods, the type of goods often imported from China and sold at Wal-Mart. Economists Broda and Romalis found that in the sectors where Chinese imports have increased the most (especially nondurable goods such as canned food and clothing), prices have fallen dramatically. They estimate that about one-third of the price decline for the poor is directly associated with rising imports from China. "In the sectors where there is no Chinese presence," Broda says, "inflation has been more than 20%."

**ARTICLE 703**

**Underage Alcohol Use: Where Do Young People Drink?** *National Survey on Drug Use and Health*, 4 September.

A majority (53.4%) of current alcohol users aged 12 to 20 drank at someone else's home the last time they used alcohol, and another 30.3 percent drank in their own home. The percentage of underage alcohol users who had their most recent drink in a car or other vehicle peaked at 10.1 percent at age 16 (12.8 % of females and 7.3% of males).

**ARTICLE 704**

**Learning By Doing: Experiences of Circular Migration** by Kathleen Newland et al. *Migration Policy Institute*, 5 September. 28p.

Policymakers in migrant-receiving countries all over the world are exploring the concept of circular migration as a way to improve upon the discredited temporary worker programs of the past. As a new policy tool that allows migrants to move more freely back and forth between their origin and destination countries, circular migration increases the likelihood that global mobility gains will be shared by both and gives migrants more options to advance their working lives. Despite the growing interest, the study finds that the concept of circular migration is not well understood and that the experience of circular programs around the world remains thin.

**ARTICLE 705**

**Medical Tourism: Consumers in Search of Value** *Deloitte Center for Health Solutions*, 8 August. 32p.

The impact of rising U.S. health care costs is prompting increasing numbers of consumers to consider outbound medical tourism as a viable care option. In 2007, an estimated 750,000 Americans traveled abroad for medical care; this number is anticipated to increase to 6 million by 2010. Concurrently, inbound medical tourism and medical tourism across state lines continue to present opportunities for specialty hubs offering treatments unavailable elsewhere in the world or in a community setting.

**ARTICLE 706**

**Is Dietary Knowledge Enough? Hunger, Stress, and Other Roadblocks to Healthy Living** by Lisa Mancino & Jean Kinsey. *Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture*, August. 29p.

Poor diets and rising obesity rates among Americans persist despite increased public awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. This report presents a consumer demand model to illustrate how both long-term health objectives and immediate visceral influences, long intervals between meals and eating away from home, can drive individuals' food choices.

**ARTICLE 707**

***Some related online resources which may be of interest:***

**World Population: A Guide to the WWW** by Richard Jensen, May 2007.

**Homeward Bound: Recent Immigration Enforcement and the Decline in the Illegal Alien Population**  
*Center for Immigration Studies*, July. 12p. **Summary**

**The State of Our Nation's Youth 2008-2009** Survey by Horatio Alger Foundation of Distinguished Americans Inc., August. 80p. **Summary**  
News Release, **"Teens Pessimistic, Optimistic about Themselves and Own Future"**

**Marketing Food to Children and Adolescents: A Review of Industry Expenditures, Activities, and Self-Regulation** A Report to Congress. *U.S. Federal Trade Commission*, July. 120p. **APPENDICES** – 128p. **News Release and a chronological annotated guide to FTC guidance documents on food marketing to children and adolescents**

**Striking Jump in Consumers Seeking Health Care Information** *Center for Studying Health System Change*, August. **News release**

**Entitlements: Not Just a Health Care Problem** by Andrew G. Biggs. *American Enterprise Institute*, 8 August.

**Tax Expenditures for Health Care** by the staff of the *Joint Committee on Taxation, U.S. Congress*, 30 July.

**A Fork in the Ocean: Obama, McCain, and Health Care** by Michael Tanner. *Cato Institute*, 29 July. 28p.

**Marijuana: The Greatest Cause of Illegal Drug Abuse** 2008 Marijuana Sourcebook. *White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)*, July. 28p. Press Release, **"White House Releases Its Largest-Ever Compilation of Data Relating to Marijuana Abuse in the United States"**

**International Drug Control Policy** *CRS*, 23 June.

**Hometown Associations: An Untapped Resource for Immigrant Integration?** *Migration Policy Institute*, July. 24p.

**Caring for the Vulnerable: The State of Social Work in America** Hearing before a subcommittee of the *U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor*, July 29, 2008

**Growing Middle Class Income Gap** Hearing before a subcommittee of the *U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor*, July 31, 2008

**America's Four Middle Classes** *Pew Research Center*, 29 July.

**The U.S. Secret Service: An Examination and Analysis of its Evolving Missions** *CRS*, 31 July.

**Department of Justice Efforts to Combat Cyber Crimes** Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of Justice*, 5 August. 3p.

**State Health Care Reform: A Brief Guide to Risk Adjustment in Consumer-Driven Health Insurance Markets** - State officials who are serious about reforming their health insurance markets will be confronted sooner or later by the complex issue of risk adjustment. Today, most Americans have limited or no choice of health insurance and are covered either by a plan selected by their employer or by a government-designed and government-managed program.

**Reducing Illegal Immigration: How Congress Can Support Federal Initiatives** - One of the most contentious issues in the debate over immigration reform is how to deal with the estimated 12 to 15 million illegal aliens in the United States. Supporters of "comprehensive" reform often falsely present the issue as a choice between permanent legalization and the forced deportation of each and every illegal immigrant.

**Environmental, Social, and Governance: Moving to Mainstream Investing?** Report by *Business for Social Responsibility*, 25 June. 27p.

**Addressing the Housing and Financial Market Crises** - David H. McCormick, under secretary for international affairs at the U.S. Treasury Department, addressed the current difficulties in U.S. financial and housing markets. "We are ... confident," said McCormick, "in the resilience and diversity of the U.S. economy and that we will move through these difficulties, just as we have moved through difficult periods in the past." (video)

## EDUCATION

**Overtime** by Steven Sass in *Boston College Magazine*, Summer.

Sass, Associate Director for Research at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, writes that job holders in the soon-to-retire Baby Boom generation, those born between 1946 and 1962, will have to work longer than their parents did. With cutbacks in Social Security and the general disappearance of traditional pensions, to enjoy a reasonably comfortable old age the Baby Boomers have little choice but to stay in the labor force longer. Add to this is a new instability in employment for older workers, and much more frequent job changes, and the entry of China, India and the former Soviet Union into the world economic system which has doubled the size of the labor force potentially available to U.S. employers over the last 10-15 years. [ARTICLE 708](#)

**Professor, Do Your Job** by Stanley Fish in *Policy Review*, August/September.

Fish argues the justification of a liberal education.

[ARTICLE 709](#)

**Are Too Many People Going to College?** by Charles Murray, in *The American*, 8 September.

America's university system is creating a class-riven nation. Murray ponders the message from John Stuart Mill who told students at the University of St. Andrews in 1867 that "universities are not intended to teach the knowledge required to fit men for some special mode of gaining their livelihood," and says there has to be a better way.

[ARTICLE 710](#)

**Does Spending More on Education Improve Academic Achievement?** by Dan Lips et al. *Heritage*, 8 September.

How much does the United States spend on public education; and what does the evidence show about the relationship between public education spending and students' academic achievement?

[ARTICLE 711](#)

**Do Emergency Text Messaging Systems Put Students in More Danger?** by John Bambenek & Agnieszka in *Educause Quarterly*, #3.

The rush to use text messaging as an emergency notification system fails to consider the weaknesses and potential hazards of this solution.

[ARTICLE 712](#)

**Some related online resources which may be of interest:**

**Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 2006** U.S. Dept of Education, *National Center for Education Statistics*, September. 79p

**The Impact of Baby Boomer Retirements on Teacher Labor Markets** Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, *Chicago Fed Letter*, September.

**Scrap the Sacrosanct Salary Schedule** by Jacob Vigdor. *Education Next*, Fall. 8p. Press Release, "**For Public School Teachers, Evidence Supports Eliminating Pay for Credentials in Favor of Increased Starting Salaries and Rewarding Performance Improvements**"- 28 August.

**From Research to Policy: How Do You Cull Through Various – and Often Contradictory – Findings to Decide What Works Best in Your School District** *American School Board Journal*, August. 4p.

**Out of Many, One: Toward Rigorous Common Core Standards from the Ground Up** Report by *Achieve, Inc.*, July. 31p. [Summary](#)

**Descriptive Summary of 2003-04 Beginning Postsecondary Students: Three Years Later** *National Center for Education Statistics*, U.S. Dept of Education, July. Note: 239p.

**Children's Picture Book Database** at Miami University. [About this resource](#)

## **BUSINESS**

**Marketing Food to Children and Adolescents** *Federal Trade Commission*, 1 August. Note: 120p.

The report finds that 44 major food and beverage marketers spent \$1.6 billion to promote their products to children under 12 and adolescents ages 12 to 17 in the United States in 2006. The food advertising to youth is dominated by integrated advertising campaigns that combine traditional media, such as television, with previously unmeasured forms of marketing, such as packaging, in-store advertising, sweepstakes, and the Internet. These campaigns often involve cross-promotion with a new movie or popular television program. Analyzing the data, the report calls for all food companies "to adopt and adhere to meaningful, nutrition-based standards for marketing their products to children under 12."

**ARTICLE 713**

**Emergency Unemployment Compensation** by Julie Whitaker. *CRS*, 21 July. 5p.

The *Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC)* program was created by P.L. 110-252. The new temporary unemployment insurance program provides up to 13 additional weeks of unemployment benefits to certain workers who have exhausted their rights to regular unemployment compensation (UC) benefits. The program effectively begins July 6, 2008, and will terminate on March 28, 2009. No EUC benefit will be paid beyond the week ending July 4, 2009.

**ARTICLE 714**

**National Boss Day** by Craig Dillow in *Fast Company*, October.

Looking back over 50 years of *National Boss Days* (October 16), workers everywhere may notice one thing has remained constant: The big money is concentrated at the top, and the bigs are mostly men. As for the talent? Well, there is nothing controversial to say. After all, one could be up for promotion. Right, boss? **ARTICLE 715**

**America's Dynamic Workforce: 2008.** *U.S. Department of Labor*, 9 September. 70p.

The report presents an overview of current conditions and notable trends affecting the American labor market and economic activity. Primary emphasis is on measures of labor market performance, employment, labor force participation, unemployment, and compensation. General measures of economic performance such as gross domestic product (GDP) and productivity growth are also described as they relate to labor market conditions and trends.

**ARTICLE 716**

**First Annual Report on the Latin America Small Business Lending Initiative** U.S. Treasury Department, 8 September. 5p.

The report summarizes the first year of implementation of the Latin America Small Business Lending Initiative, launched by U.S. Treasury Secretary Paulson in June 2007, to expand and improve the access of small businesses in Latin America and the Caribbean to commercial financing. The effort is intended to accelerate the job creation and poverty-reduction that small businesses provide. Expanding small business ownership helps create more sustainable, stable economies with broader economic opportunities.

**ARTICLE 717**

**HR 2847: The Green Jobs Act 2007**

**Green Collar Jobs – Overview**

**Local Government Green Jobs Pledge** - The 21<sup>st</sup> century is time to build an inclusive green economy in the United States that benefits communities, working families and the planet. Right now a green future is being invented in cities and counties across the US by local leaders - mayors, county executives, community activists, local business owners, and youth organizers.

**ARTICLE 718**

**Made to Stick: Why Companies Should Pave the Way to Praise** by Dan Heath & Chip Heath in *Fast Company*, October.

Why do companies make it so hard to say thank you to the right people?

**ARTICLE 719**

## **MEDIA**

**Don't Fear Twitter** by John Dickerson in *Nieman Reports*, Summer.

Are the 140-word entries on the Web site "Twitter" trivializing journalism? No, says Dickerson, chief political correspondent for Slate, and a Twitter reader. He says, it is "informal and approachable and great for conveying a little moment from an event. If written the right way, Twitter entries build a community of readers who find their way to longer articles because they are lured by these moment-by-moment observations." [ARTICLE 720](#)

**Journalists' Privilege: Overview of the Law and Legislation in the 109<sup>th</sup> and 110<sup>th</sup> Congresses** by Henry Cohen & Kathleen Ann Ruane. *CRS*, 20 August. 15p.

The Supreme Court holds that the First Amendment did not provide even a qualified privilege for journalists to refuse "to appear and testify before state or federal grand juries." However, 49 states have adopted a journalists' privilege in various types of proceedings. Journalists have no privilege in federal proceedings. On July 6, 2005, a federal district court in Washington, DC, found Judith Miller of the New York Times in contempt of court for refusing to cooperate in a grand jury investigation relating to the leak of the identity of an undercover CIA agent. The court ordered Ms. Miller to serve time in jail. Ms. Miller spent 85 days in jail. She secured her release only after her informant gave her permission to reveal his identity. Congress has considered creating a journalists' privilege for federal proceedings, and bills to adopt a journalists' privilege have been introduced in the 109th and 110th Congresses, in both the House and the Senate. [ARTICLE 721](#)

**Key News Audiences Now Blend Online and Traditional Sources** *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*, 17August. Note: 129p.

For more than a decade, the audiences for most traditional news sources have steadily declined, as the number of people getting news online has surged. But it is not a choice between traditional sources and the internet for the core elements of today's news audiences. A sizable minority of Americans, who are integrators, those who get the news from both traditional sources and the internet, are a more engaged, sophisticated and demographically sought-after audience segment than those who mostly rely on traditional news sources. They are older, on average, and they spend more time with the news on a typical day than do those who rely more on either traditional or internet sources. [ARTICLE 722](#)

**Handheld Headlines** by Arielle Emmett in *American Journalism Review*, October.

As news organizations embrace content aimed at cell phones and other mobile devices as part of their survival strategy in the digital age, all your digitally hip friends will assure you that having news flashes and traffic alerts and the inevitable Lindsay Lohan and Amy Winehouse updates pushed to your iPhone or BlackBerry are the natural extension of electronic life. [ARTICLE 723](#)

**Crossing Lines** by Megan Garber in *Columbia Journalism Review*, July-August.

Last year, Happy, a former resident of Fletcher Field, a five-acre neighborhood near Detroit's City Airport, launched a blog on the newspaper's Web site called "Going Home: A Journal on Detroit's Neighborhoods." Working with community leaders, the blog has served as a voice to the "invisible" poor and a tool for coalition building and advocacy. Current residents, many of whom do not have access to computers, funnel their personal stories to community leaders, who then communicate them to Happy. Fletcher Field is still poor, rundown and extremely dangerous, but changes have been impressive. Thanks to the blog, the neighborhood has received attention and help from former residents and city officials. [ARTICLE 724](#)

**Cable's Clout** by Paul Farhi in *American Journalism Review*, August-September.

Repetition and prominence, not the ability to break news, give cable news television an enormous amount of clout, says Washington Post reporter Farhi. [ARTICLE 725](#)



## COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**In a Letter to His Kids, Wired's Founding Editor Recalls the Dawn of the Digital Revolution** by Louis Rossetto in *Wired Magazine*, June.

Rossetto reflects on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of his magazine on the predictions for the Internet he made in 1993, and how things have actually turned out. Rossetto notes that he started *Wired* to chronicle the people, companies, and ideas driving the digital revolution - but had only the vaguest notion of where it was headed. Major misses included "the end of history", characterized by Francis Fukuyama's famous prediction that history ended with the demise of the Soviet Union; *Wired* failed to see that extremist groups would use the Internet to propagate virulent ideology. Another misstep was believing that the Internet would lead to the end of politics; He also points out that instead of using the Internet to rebuild civil society, special-interest groups used it to get into the "mud" of politics, resulting in "one of the most toxic and least productive eras of public discourse in our history." Among the trends Rossetto believes they accurately predicted were the spread of liberal democracy, globalization, and a technological revolution.

**ARTICLE 726**

**Improving Technology Utilization in Electronic Government Around the World** by Darrell West. *Brookings*, 17 August. 32p.

Electronic government offers the promise of utilizing technology to improve public sector performance as well as employing new advances for democracy itself. Unlike traditional bricks and mortar agencies, digital delivery systems are non-hierarchical, non-linear, interactive and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The non-hierarchical character of Internet delivery permits people to look for information at their own convenience. The interactive aspects of e-government allow both citizens and bureaucrats to send as well as receive information. Digital government has the potential to transform governmental efficiency, transparency, citizen trust and political participation in transitional democracies.

**ARTICLE 727**

**Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security.** [*United Nations*], 17 August. 8p.

The report provides a summary of the replies received from governments on the topics related to information security and security of global information and telecommunications systems.

**ARTICLE 728**

***Some online resources which may be of interest:***

**Fighting for Worldwide Internet Freedom** Op-ed by David A. Gross, U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, in *Real Clear World*, 14 August.

**Information Overload: Is it Time for a Data Diet?** *Computerworld*, 25 August.

**99 Resources to Research and Mine the Invisible Web** by Jessica Hupp, 13 February.

**Search Engine Use. Pew Internet and American Life Project**, 6 August. 6p. **Summary** The study finds that about half of all internet users in the U.S. use a search engine on any given day, up from one-third in 2002.

**Understanding the IT Lobby: An Insider's Guide** *Association for Competitive Technology*, June. 20p.

**FBI warns of Storm Worm virus** *FBI* press release, 30 July.

**Issues in Telecommunications Competition** Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, 22 July.

**Taptu** – a new search engine designed for mobile use; **brief article about it**

## THE ARTS & CULTURE

**Promoting Film and Media to Enhance State Economic Development.** *Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association.* July 15, 2008. 30p.

As governors continue exploring innovative strategies to grow their economies, states are increasingly looking to film, television and related media arts productions as a means of attracting high-paying jobs and related high-tech businesses, according to the report. The state and local economic benefits brought by hosting a major motion picture production are numerous. Film, TV and media arts productions help create local jobs by using residents to staff the production, as well as boost local economies by purchasing goods and services from local vendors.

[News Release](#)

[ARTICLE 729](#)

**An Elegant Retreat** by N.F. Karlins on *Artnet*, 8 August.

The opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics left the author craving to experience a more venerable Chinese culture. With its pollution, political repression and casual attitude towards the rule, he was left saddened...

[ARTICLE 730](#)

**The Secrets of Storytelling: Why We Love a Good Yarn** by Jeremy Hsu on *Scientific American.com*, October.

Storytelling is a human universal, and common themes appear in tales throughout history and all over the world. These characteristics of stories, and our natural affinity toward them, reveal clues about our evolutionary history and the roots of emotion and empathy in the mind. By studying narrative's power to influence beliefs, researchers are discovering how we analyze information and accept new ideas.

[ARTICLE 731](#)

**Natural Facts** by Ben Davis on *Artnet*, 8 August.

Set to open in October, this ambitious survey of 25 artists at the New Museum of Contemporary Art is a show studded with ensembles of artworks that feel like (and look like) half-formed stage sets. Brave.

[ARTICLE 732](#)

**Examining the Role of Museums and Libraries in Strengthening Communities** *Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor*, 11 September.

Hundreds of library and museum experts from communities across the nation were involved in the peer review process for competitive awards. The committee was told that many involved in the support of library services throughout the states work in close partnership with them to support library services through a population-based grant to every state. They provide federal leadership that helps institutions connect with the expertise they need to make a difference in their communities. And each year they make hundreds of grants that go beyond supporting individual projects. They encourage great projects, innovative ideas, and solid research to change the way library and museum services are delivered in the United States. Their mission is to support these essential institutions in their efforts to connect people to information and ideas, the fundamental purpose of all museums and libraries.

[ARTICLE 733](#)

**Hispanic Americans in the Arts** on *America.gov: Telling America's Story*, September.

As the largest minority group in the United States, Hispanic Americans contribute to the cultural diversity of the United States in a multitude of ways. Many excel in the arts, and Hispanic names can be found in any survey of prominent U.S. writers, painters, sculptors, actors, singers, filmmakers and fashion designers. These men and women are inspired by the complexity and richness of their American experience combined with their Latin American roots.

[ARTICLE 734](#)

## SCIENCE

**Stem Cell Research Around the World** by Michelle Ralston. *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life*, 17 July.

The United States is only one of many countries playing an important role in stem cell research. In the last decade, several European and Asian countries have become leading centers for the study of stem cells and their possible therapeutic uses. These countries, along with countries from other regions of the world, have greatly expanded the scope of stem cell research, creating an array of scientific advances and medical applications. The study lists laws and policies on stem cell research in various countries, as well as their significant research efforts. **ARTICLE 735**

***Some online resources which may be of interest:***

**The U.S. Science and Technology Workforce** *CRS*, 20 June.

**New Strategies for Combating Violent Crime: Drawing Lessons from Recent Experience** Hearing before the  
*U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary*, 10 September.

**Universities Report Continued Decline in Real Federal S&E R&D Funding in FY 2007** *National Science Foundation*, August. 8p.

**Nanotechnology and Environmental Health and Safety: Issues for Consideration** *CRS*, 6 August.

**Finding Experts by Using the Internet** A guide by Marcus P. Zillman, revised 2008 18p.

**Knowledge Discovery Resources 2008** by Marcus P. Zillman; an annotated guide to online resources on knowledge discovery, harvesting and management, data mining and text mining.

**State Digital Resources: Memory Projects, Online Encyclopedias, Historical and Cultural Materials Collections** Annotated web guide by *Library of Congress*, 18 July.

**Russia** Bibliography by *Muir S. Fairchild Research Information Center*, June.

**Southern Africa** A bibliography by *Muir S. Fairchild Research Information Center*, June.

**Kosovo** A bibliography by *Muir S. Fairchild Research Information Center*, May.

**2008 National Defense Strategy** *U.S. Dept of Defense*, June. 29p.

**Costs of Major U.S. Wars** *CRS*, 24 July.

**Dangerous Depots: The Growing Humanitarian Problem Posed by Ageing and Poorly Maintained Munitions Storage Sites around the World** Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, 4 August.

**Disaster Finder** The “latest links in disaster information” - developed and maintained by *NASA Solid Earth and Natural Hazards Program*, at NASA headquarters in Washington DC.

**ITC to Study Impact of Infrastructure Conditions on Sub-Saharan African Exports** News release, *U.S. International Trade Commission*, 31 July.

**An Overview of the Development of Congressional Committees** by Michael Welsh, July. 21p.

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